



THE ENGLISH AGGIE



December 2013

www.english.tamu.edu

Texas A&M University– Department of English Undergraduate Studies

Think Outside the Box: Scientific Writing

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A chat with senior Roberto Molar

Most of us become English majors because we love language. Whether it is a love of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric that led them to major in English, many students draw a blank when faced with the overwhelming question, “What do you want to do after graduation?”

This is not, of course, entirely a bad thing. The fact that we study literature for often what amounts to nothing but our own bet-

terment demonstrates our level of passion for our field of study, and it is safe to say that many young authors will continue to write regardless of whether or not the products of their creativity sell. However, as English major Roberto Molar has found, there is something tremendously rewarding about using his English degree to improve communication in the field of science. *(Read more on Page 2)*



Ah, the aromas of pine, cinnamon, and popcorn. The holidays have arrived! Each family has its own tradition, and movies are generally a common favorite. Find out which Christmas movies some of our English Aggies enjoy on the back of this edition!

Scientific Writing

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Last spring, Roberto Molar was in the same boat as the rest of us English majors—filled with uncertainty about what he wanted to do after graduation in December. However, when he applied for a technical writing position from the Texas Sea Grant College Program (advertised through the English Dept.'s Weekly Announcement emails), he discovered an entirely new way to use his English major. According to its website, Sea Grant was created “to improve the understanding, wise use and stewardship of Texas coastal and marine resources,” and “develops and supports research, education and outreach programs and partnerships.” The focus on science meant that Roberto would gain experience with technical writing.

During his time with Sea Grant, Roberto learned that he liked writing about science—that writing abstracts for scientific articles beyond the scope of his education, while difficult, was fascinating work. His other internships with *Maroon Weekly* and The Association of Former Students have contributed to his experience with feature writing, and after pursuing his MS in the Scientific and Technology Journalism Program, Roberto hopes to use his background in science writing and editing to work for a magazine like National Geographic.



Because of this summer with Sea Grant, Roberto has a new perspective on how he can use his English major. Liberal Arts students are highly intelligent, but he thinks it is important for them to learn ambition—to get the education they love, but to think outside the box when deciding what to do with it. While that may not mean scientific writing for some English majors, there is a high demand for skilled writers who can bridge the gap between scientists and the large, diverse audience that seeks to understand their academic jargon. It is this gap Roberto hopes to close as he joins other technical writers in working toward a better way of communicating science.

Roberto is a non-native English speaker from Linares, Mexico (and more recently, Edinburg, TX). He currently works at The Association of Former Students and will graduate in December 2013.

Cushing Library Interns Spring 2014



Congratulations to



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